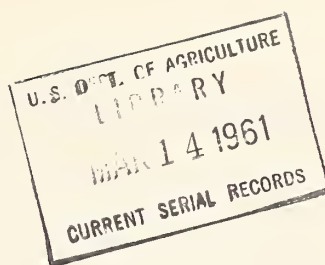


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Growth Through Agricultural Progress

HOME FOOD PRODUCTION: PART I VARIATIONS IN IMPORTANCE AND USE OF VEGETABLES AND FRUITS

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HOME FOOD PRODUCTION: PART I
VARIATIONS IN IMPORTANCE AND USE OF VEGETABLES AND FRUITS 1/

American families in spring 1955 obtained 89 percent of the food they used at home from commercial market sources, 3 percent as gifts or payments in kind, and 8 percent from home production. The drop in the proportion home produced from 18 percent in spring 1942 to this 8 percent figure has been a significant source of the increased demand for commercially produced and marketed food supplies. The extent of this decline has varied among urbanization groups and among commodities.

Before we can form judgments about possible changes in demand still to come from this source, current variations in home food production must be considered and the significance of home production in comparison with commercially produced and marketed supplies of food appraised. Then historical changes in home food production must be examined and contributing factors evaluated in order to see what more they portend for commercial agriculture.

This article begins with a description of variations in the importance of home food production in spring 1955, then turns to 1954 data for an overall view of the extent of home food production and a more detailed discussion for vegetables, fruits, and melons. Its sequel, to be published in the July issue of the National Food Situation, will include (1) description and analysis of the extent of production of livestock products for home use, (2) a review of available data on historical changes in home production of all food items, and (3) a discussion of prospective changes in the competition between home-produced foods and commercially produced and marketed supplies for places on American dining tables.

The analysis draws on two sets of data. Detailed data on sources of food used at home during a week of spring 1955 by households grouped according to region, urbanization, and income are given in the first 5 reports on the Department's 1955 Survey of Household Food Consumption. 2/ To get a clearer picture of the extent of home food production in a whole year, households participating in the survey were asked a number of questions about which foods and how much they had home produced, canned, and frozen in 1954. This information has been published in Survey Report No. 11, Home Freezing and Canning by Households in the United States -- by Region and in Survey Report No. 12, Food Production for Home Use by Households in the United States -- by Region. 3/

1/ By Marguerite C. Burk and Gertrude Gronbeck, Statistical and Historical Research Branch, AMS.

2/ Food Consumption of Households in the United States, in the Northeast, in the North Central Region, in the South, and in the West, Reports No. 1-5, 1955 Household Food Consumption Survey.

3/ Published October 1957 and January 1958, respectively.

Some highlights of our study of home food production thus far are:

(1) The proportions of food used at home in a week of spring 1955 that had been produced for home use in the several regions were--South, 12 percent; North Central Region, 9 percent; West, 5 percent; and Northeast, 3 percent. These percentages were greatly influenced by the proportion of families in each region who farmed.

(2) About 82 percent of the country's use of home-produced foods was accounted for by the South and North Central Region which included 62 percent of the housekeeping population.

(3) Only half as many households produced livestock products for their own use as produced fruits and vegetables. However, the value of such livestock products in 1954 was four-fifths larger than that of all fruits and vegetables.

(4) A third of all U. S. households in 1954 raised for their own use some vegetables other than potatoes and sweetpotatoes, amounting to slightly over 200 pounds per household.

(5) Fresh use of vegetables from home gardens varied from region to region, with rural nonfarm households in the South using much more than those in other regions and southern urban and farm households at or near the top in their categories.

Variations in Importance of Home Food Production

The significance of home-produced foods in relation to all food consumed at home varies widely across the country, depending primarily on the degree of urbanization of the area. Here are the proportions of food consumed at home in a week of spring 1955 which had been home produced, tabulated for families in each region and each urbanization category: ^{4/}

Region	All urbanizations <u>Percent</u>	Farm <u>Percent</u>	Rural nonfarm <u>Percent</u>	Urban <u>Percent</u>
United States	7.6	40.9	7.7	1.2
South	12.4	42.6	10.6	2.1
North Central	8.6	41.5	7.5	1.0
Northeast	3.4	38.3	5.2	.6
West	4.8	33.4	4.4	1.5

^{4/} The urban category covers families living in communities of 2,500 or more population and in suburbs of large cities. Rural nonfarm includes families living outside urban areas and not operating a farm.

Back of these percentages lie variations in the proportion of families in each category producing any food for their own use and variations in the extent of such activities. In spring 1955 almost all farm families used some food they had produced for their own use. The U. S. average amounted to \$10.77 per farm family in a week, 40.9 percent of all food they consumed at home. Three out of five rural nonfarm families reported some home-produced food, whereas only one in five urban families did. For U. S. rural nonfarm families, the average value of home-produced food was \$1.79 per family for a week, compared with 28 cents for U. S. urban families. Among all U. S. house-keeping families, two out of five had home-produced food—averaging \$1.84 in a week.

Although most farm families had some home-produced food, the value of such food varied from the \$9.86 average per western farm family in a week of spring 1955 to \$12.02 per farm family in the Northeast, with the South reporting \$10.15 and the North Central Region \$11.38.

Regional variations in the relationship between home-produced food and all food used in a week were greater for rural nonfarm and urban families. The ranges in actual dollars for a week were from \$1.17 (West) to \$2.33 (South) for rural nonfarm and 15 cents (Northeast) to 43 cents (South) for urban families. The two regional lows reflect low proportions of families home-producing.

Who Produces Food for Home Use and Why

Because of the problem of seasonality of spring data, we turn now to 1954 data on home food production for more complete information on the extent of home production in terms of who produces food for home use and why. Contributions to the aggregate U. S. value of home-produced food in 1954 of each region and urbanization group are given in table 11. This table also shows the relative importance of livestock products and vegetables and fruits in the total.

Urban Households Produce Little of Their Own Food

Although one in five urban households ^{5/} produces some food for home use, very few produce any livestock products. On the average they reported production of \$17 worth of food for their own use in 1954. ^{6/} For many urban

^{5/} The term "household" applies to one person or a group of persons sharing a common food supply. In survey terminology, a family may be a person living alone or a group of persons living together and drawing from a common fund for their major items of expense.

^{6/} This figure includes rough approximations of the value of home-produced fruit used fresh and the value of reported quantities of other foods. See p. 3 of Survey Report No. 12.

Table 11.- Percentage contribution to U. S. aggregate value of food produced for home consumption by region, urbanization, and food group, 1954 ^{1/}

Region and food group	All urbanizations	Farm	Rural nonfarm	Urban
	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>
United States				
All food	100.0	61.6	29.1	9.3
Livestock products	64.5	46.7	14.6	3.2
Vegetables, fruits	35.5	14.8	14.6	6.1
South				
All food	51.7	30.4	17.4	3.9
Livestock products	35.9	22.7	10.7	2.5
Vegetables, fruits	15.8	7.7	6.7	1.4
North Central				
All food	30.2	21.4	6.4	2.5
Livestock products	18.5	16.3	2.0	.2
Vegetables, fruits	11.8	5.0	4.4	2.3
Northeast				
All food	12.0	6.2	4.0	1.7
Livestock products	5.8	4.6	1.0	.2
Vegetables, fruits	6.1	1.6	3.0	1.6
West				
All food	6.1	3.6	1.3	1.2
Livestock products	4.3	3.1	.9	.3
Vegetables, fruits	1.8	.5	.5	.8

^{1/} Derived from table 2 of 1955 Household Food Consumption Survey Report No. 12, Food Production for Home Use by Households in the United States -- by Region, using the approximations for all fruits given on page 3 of that report and the data on number of households shown in table 1, page 8.

households, particularly those in metropolitan areas, space is not available for gardening. Neither is it feasible or permissible to raise livestock in most urban communities. Probably because this basic requirement of space has no direct relation to income, no general relationship between home production by urban households and level of income is apparent in the survey data.

Urban households in the South produced food for their own use with a greater average retail value per household than those in other regions (section a, table 12). This is largely because a much higher proportion of the urban households in the South produced livestock products. Fewer of the urban households in the Northeast, with its many metropolitan areas, produced food for home use than in the other regions.

Home Food Production
Popular among Rural
Nonfarm Households

The rural nonfarm population was somewhat less than half as large as the urban population in 1954 but produced more than three times as much food for home use (table 11). The reasons for this difference in home food production are known in broad outline. Space is available for more families to carry on such activities than in urban areas and many areas have no ordinances against livestock production. Some families who have moved into rural areas garden and raise livestock for recreation or to supplement their money incomes. Other families formerly operated farms, sometimes on the same place, so they have both facilities and know-how. The influence of income is indicated by the fact that rural nonfarm families in the lowest income groups had produced more food for their own use in spring 1955 in terms of dollar value than did those with higher incomes.

Rural nonfarm households in the South produced much more food, particularly livestock products, than those in other regions (table 12, section b). Fewer households in the West had home-produced vegetables and fruits, and they produced a much smaller quantity than did those in other regions.

Farm Households Still
Produce Much of
Their Own Food

Farm households in 1954 used 62 percent of all U. S. food that was produced for home use (table 11). Only 13 percent of the housekeeping population lived on farms so their greater emphasis on home food output is readily apparent. Farm people produce some foods primarily for their own use rather than for sale. In addition, they have a ready supply of many of the foods they produce for sale. Almost all farm households reported some home-produced food in 1954.

Table 12.- Proportion of households having home-produced foods
and average value per household in 1954,
by region and urbanization 1/

Region	Proportion having home-produced food		Average value of home-produced food per household	
	Livestock products	Vegetables, fruits	Livestock products	Vegetables, fruits
	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Dollars</u>	<u>Dollars</u>
a. Urban				
United States	3	20	6	11
South	9	19	18	10
North Central	1	25	1	14
Northeast	1	14	1	8
West	2	27	4	11
b. Rural nonfarm				
United States	23	56	58	58
South	37	55	113	71
North Central	16	62	27	59
Northeast	13	55	18	51
West	17	38	38	22
c. Rural farm				
United States	92	90	450	143
South	92	92	480	164
North Central	92	91	418	129
Northeast	96	94	466	158
West	88	76	402	67

1/ Data for 1954 based on table 2 and approximations for all fruit on
p. 3 of 1955 Household Food Consumption Survey Report No. 12, Food
Production for Home Use by Households in the United States--by Region.

In 1954 farm households in the South produced more food for their own use than those in other regions (table 12, section c). In spring 1955, they did not have as much home-produced food, including carryover from 1954, as those in the North Central Region and the Northeast. However, because they bought and used less food in the spring, they ranked first in the proportion home produced.

Farm households in the South produced much larger quantities of milk for home use than those in other regions. This included milk used in making butter, which would be overstated relative to other regions where farm people exchange their milk or cream for butter at the cooperative creameries without cost for churning. This butter was classified with purchases in the 1955 survey.

Urbanization Differences
Reflected in Regional Averages

More southern and north central households are in rural areas and more of them produce food for their own use--and in greater quantity and variety--than those in the rest of the country. As table 13 shows, the South, which has the highest proportion of rural households, led in the average value per household of home-produced food in 1954, with the North Central Region next in line. These two regions accounted for 82 percent of all home-produced food in the U. S. in 1954, although they included only 62 percent of the country's housekeeping population.

Table 13.- Proportions of rural households in area totals and average value of home-produced food per household in 1954, by region

Region	: Proportion of all : : housekeeping house-:		Average value of home-produced food per household, 1954 2/		
	: holds in area, :	:	: Livestock : Vegetables, :	Total	
	: spring 1955 1/ :	:	: products : fruits :	3/	
	: Farm : Rural :	:	: : :		
	: nonfarm :	:	: : :		
	: Percent	Percent	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
United States	: 11	27	69	38	108
South	: 16	33	126	56	181
North Central	: 14	26	65	41	107
Northeast	: 4	23	23	24	47
West	: 7	21	40	17	58

1/ From p. 27, the National Food Situation, February 1957.

2/ From 1955 Household Food Consumption Survey Report No. 12, Food Production for Home Use by Households in the United States -- by Region.

3/ Computed from unrounded data.

Value of Livestock Products Almost Twice That of Vegetables and Fruits

In 1954 households in the United States produced livestock products for home use valued at 65 percent of the aggregate value of all food produced for home use. Vegetables and fruits accounted for 35 percent of the aggregate. ^{7/} About twice as many households raised vegetables or fruits for their own use as produced milk, eggs, poultry, or meat. However, the value of the livestock products was 82 percent greater than that of garden products.

Among urban households, few of whom raise livestock, the value of the vegetables and fruits exceeded that of the livestock products. In the South and West, livestock products were more important items of home production by rural nonfarm households in 1954 than fruits and vegetables, but the converse was the case for the North Central Region and Northeast. For farm households livestock products were three times as important as fruits and vegetables in production of food for home use in 1954.

Details of home production of livestock products will be developed in the second article reporting this study, planned for the July issue of the National Food Situation.

Vegetables Other Than Potatoes and Sweetpotatoes

For vegetables other than potatoes and sweetpotatoes, households bought 83 percent of the total supply used during a week in the spring of 1955, valued at retail prices. Some was received as gifts or as pay, and the rest had come from their own gardens -- about 13 percent. Home-produced supplies included vegetables in season and those canned, frozen, and stored from earlier production.

Farm households purchased almost half of all the vegetables they used in spring 1955; rural nonfarm households, three-fourths; and urban households, over 90 percent. In the West there was less difference between the proportion purchased by rural and urban households than in other regions; farm households bought somewhat over 80 percent of the vegetables used, and nonfarm households over 90 percent.

Because of the earlier season, its more rural character, and its lower incomes, the South was the region with smallest purchases of fresh vegetables for home use during the week reported on by households in spring 1955. ^{8/}

^{7/} The 1954 data collected do not cover such items as cereals, honey, and nuts, which have been relatively small in recent years.

^{8/} The coverage of the fresh vegetable category in the data for a week, spring 1955 was based on how vegetables were brought into the kitchen, whether fresh or commercially processed. Therefore, some vegetables which had been home canned or frozen are included with fresh in the 1955 figures.

In the South the proportion of purchased fresh vegetables in total fresh vegetable consumption for all households combined was 64 percent. Next came the Northeast and North Central Region with 76-78 percent. Home production had least impact on purchases of fresh vegetables in the West, where over 90 percent of the vegetables used had been bought by the households.

Home Production of Vegetables in 1954

Turning now to 1954 data on home production, we find that a third of the households in the United States had done some vegetable gardening. This proportion varied by degree of urbanization: A sixth of the urban, half of the rural nonfarm, and almost 90 percent of the farm households produced some vegetables for home use. There were regional differences too. In the West fewer rural households raised some of their own vegetables -- only two-thirds of the farm households and one-third of the rural nonfarm households. In the South and the North Central Region 40 percent of all households raised some vegetables compared with about 25 percent in the West and the Northeast.

Among urban and farm households there was relatively little variation with income level in the proportion producing some vegetables for their own use. But more of the lower income rural nonfarm households raised vegetables for their own use than those with higher money incomes.

Our data provide no clear-cut answers to a question of vital importance to marketing people: Why do families produce their own vegetables? Even the knowledge that higher income rural nonfarm families do less vegetable gardening does not gainsay the possibility that proximity to stores with good produce departments is more important than incomes. Higher income people might be living closer to supermarkets, on the average. Also, other factors such as facilities, opportunity for extra jobs, weather, education, health, and size of family affect families' decisions about gardening.

The 1954 survey data do provide detailed statistics on the extent of home production of vegetables for fresh use. Because a new approach was used to get data covering a whole year, we describe it here. ^{9/} The schedules used by interviewers carried a detailed list of vegetables. To determine how much of each item had been used fresh in 1954, each housewife was asked for how many weeks the household had had tomatoes (for example) from the garden and about how often each week she had served fresh tomatoes when they were available in the garden. She also reported how many persons in the household ate at home most of the time in 1954. Multiplication of these three sets of data

^{9/} Estimation of the total amount of vegetables used fresh from home gardens during a whole season is practically impossible. In contrast, most housewives can recall their use of individual foods in the preceding week quite well, so this basis was used for the detailed data for spring 1955, reported in Reports No. 1-5. Fresh use of vegetables in 1954, as given in Report No. 12, excludes all quantities of vegetables canned or frozen.

yielded the total number of servings of fresh tomatoes for each household in the year. For groups of households these data on servings were converted to poundage terms by means of estimates of retail weights per household serving each item. 10/

The retail value 11/ of all vegetables produced for home use in 1954 averaged \$27 per household, with regional figures ranging from \$35 in the South to \$11 in the West. Farm households in the Northeast produced a third more vegetables other than potatoes and sweetpotatoes, in terms of value, than did southern farm households. However, the average value of all vegetables and fruits home produced by southern farm households was higher than in any other region. Western households of each urbanization category averaged markedly below the U. S. average. Outside the West, regional averages per rural nonfarm household were in the \$40 range.

On a poundage basis, the average use of fresh vegetables per southern household was about a third higher than the average for all north central households, and far higher than in other regions. These two regions are fairly similar in degree of urbanization. The difference in average use of fresh garden vegetables resulted from higher average production per farm and rural nonfarm household in the South. Farm households in the Northeast used as many pounds of home-produced fresh vegetables per household as their counterparts in the South.

A third more home-produced vegetables were used fresh by rural nonfarm households in the South than in the Northeast and North Central Region, and more than 3 times as many as in the West. The urban averages for the 4 regions varied from 29 pounds per household in the West to 47 pounds in the North Central Region.

The average amount of vegetables produced in urban home gardens for fresh use varied irregularly among households grouped by income. The averages for rural nonfarm households tended to decrease at successively higher levels of income, whereas among farm households there was no clear-cut relationship between income and home-production of vegetables for fresh use.

Significant Differences by Type of Vegetable

The three most popular vegetables home produced for fresh use in each urbanization category were tomatoes, snap beans, and onions, with tomatoes being produced by 3 in 4 farm households, by almost half of the rural nonfarm households, and 14 percent of the urban.

10/ Given on page 4 of Report 12. These sizes of servings were substantially larger than institutional servings because most families serve generous helpings of home-produced vegetables.

11/ For procedure used in valuation and prices, see pages 85-87 of Report No. 12.

The relative emphasis on individual vegetables produced in home gardens for fresh use is quite different from the way they line up in commercial marketings as fresh. Whereas tomatoes account for a third of the home-produced poundage used fresh, they constituted a tenth of the fresh vegetables sold in 1954. ^{12/} Lettuce and cabbage are more important commercial items than they are in home gardens, but sweet corn is much less important as a commercial fresh item.

In 1954 three out of five farm households raised sweet corn, cabbage, lettuce, and peas (individually, not necessarily in combination). Half of them raised radishes, cucumbers, carrots, beets, and dark green leafy vegetables.

In the West carrots were the vegetable most commonly raised. Farm households in that region raised a smaller variety than farm households in other regions. Possible contributing factors are the arid character of much of the region, greater specialization in agriculture, and availability of good produce in commercial truck crop areas.

More of the farm households in the South raised dark green leafy vegetables, lima beans, and okra than in the other regions. In fact, mustard greens, collards, and okra are grown mainly in the South. Fewer of the farm households in that area grew carrots than in other regions, but yellow squash was more popular. Farm households in the Northeast raised a greater variety of vegetables than those in other parts of the country.

After the big three, rural nonfarm households selected lettuce, cabbage, radishes, and sweet corn. Quite popular among urban households were carrots, lettuce, and radishes. Regional variation in types of vegetables raised by nonfarm households followed rather closely regional differences in choices among vegetables by farm households.

Effects of These Variations in Home Production on U. S. Totals

Here again the proportional distribution of U. S. households by region and by urbanization offsets some of the variation among such groups in home production of vegetables for fresh use. The average amount of fresh garden vegetables used by U. S. urban households in 1954 was only 39 pounds per household, compared with 227 pounds for rural nonfarm and 493 for farm, but urban home production contributed 17 percent of the U. S. total (table 14).

This table is significant both as a description of the present picture of home production of fresh vegetables and as an indicator of potential areas of market development for commercially marketed vegetables.

^{12/} As reported in Supplement for 1956 to Agriculture Handbook No. 62, Consumption of Food in the United States.

Table 14.- Percentage contribution to U. S. total home production of vegetables for fresh use, by region and urbanization, 1954 ^{1/}

Urbanization	United States	South	North Central Region	Northeast	West
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
All households	100.0	45.8	31.3	18.3	4.6
Farm	39.2	20.3	13.2	4.3	1.4
Rural nonfarm	43.5	20.6	12.0	9.4	1.4
Urban	17.3	4.8	6.1	4.6	1.7

^{1/} Derived from poundage data in table 14 of 1955 Household Food Consumption Survey Report No. 12, Food Production for Home Use by Households in the United States -- by Region; excludes potatoes and sweetpotatoes. Totals computed from unrounded data.

As our population becomes more highly urbanized, home gardening will decline. As rural incomes rise, rural nonfarm and farm families are likely to expend less effort on their gardens. But not all of the decrease in fresh use of home garden output will be taken up by the commercial fresh market. Some demand will flow to processed vegetables. Also, households relying on purchased supplies of fresh vegetables use significantly less. ^{13/} In the next article we will quantify some of these ideas.

Comparison of Fresh Use With Stored, Canned and Frozen

Two-thirds of the vegetables raised for home use were used fresh and almost a fourth canned. Half of the remainder was frozen and half was stored. Tomatoes were the most popular item for fresh use and for canning. The more rural character of the South and North Central Region contributed to higher average use per household of home-produced vegetables in total (fresh, canned, frozen, stored) in those regions than in the Northeast and West.

^{13/} Illustrated by chart 1, page 12 and table 69, page 160, of Food Consumption and Dietary Levels of Rural Families in the North Central Region, 1952 by Mollie Orshansky, Corinne Le Bovit, Ennis C. Blake, Mary Ann Moss. AIB No. 157. Institute of Home Economics. ARS. November 1957.

Among households raising vegetables, two-thirds canned and a fourth froze some. The proportion preserving vegetables by canning or freezing was highest for farm households and lowest for urban households. Relatively few households in the West canned or froze vegetables. The proportion of farm households freezing vegetables increased with income.

Certain regional factors seemed to predominate over the force of urbanization differences in how home-produced vegetables were used. Here are some examples. For tomatoes, northeastern households in each urbanization used relatively more canned and less fresh than those in other regions, whereas western households used more of theirs fresh. Southern households in all urbanizations were very heavy users of fresh dark green leafy vegetables. We found that rural nonfarm and farm households in the same region generally handled their garden produce in comparable ways.

Potatoes and Sweetpotatoes

In the spring of 1955 U. S. households purchased 90 percent of the potatoes and 84 percent of the sweetpotatoes they used. Carryover of home-produced supplies is pretty low by that time and new potatoes were not ready for digging in the northern part of the country. Farm households depended on their own supply for 3/10 and rural nonfarm households for 1/10 of the potatoes they used. Rural households in the South relied more on home-produced supplies and those in the West less than rural households in the rest of the country.

In 1954 households in the United States produced potatoes and sweetpotatoes valued at \$5 per household. For farm households the value per household was \$27, and ranged from \$4 in the West to \$42 in the South. A much larger proportion of households in the South raised each of these vegetables than in the other regions, especially sweetpotatoes. Also, southern households raised a larger average quantity.

The proportion raising potatoes and sweetpotatoes and the amounts produced for home use decreased for successively higher income groups of rural nonfarm households. Among farm households, the relationships of home production to income were not clear-cut but irregular.

Home production of potatoes and sweetpotatoes by farm, rural nonfarm and urban households in 1954 amounted to about 1/10 of all potatoes consumed by the U. S. civilian population. 14/

14/ Computed from disappearance data. The per capita data for potatoes and sweetpotatoes published regularly in table 3 of the National Food Situation include quantities produced by farm households for their own use.

Fruits and Melons

In the spring of 1955 U. S. households reported that they had purchased 87 percent of the fruit they used, home produced about 8 percent and received the balance as gift or pay. Fruit produced for home use was a very minor item in the food supply of urban households, but it amounted to a ninth of the rural nonfarm and about a fourth of farm use in a spring week. These supplies were primarily home canned and frozen because most fruits are not harvested until July or later.

In 1954 a fifth of the families had some home-produced fruit, and the average value per household was \$6 -- more in the South and the North Central Region, less in the Northeast and the West. The average value per household varied from \$2 per urban household in the United States to \$25 in farm households. However, fruit accounted for 11 percent of the value of home-produced food in urban households -- 4 percent in farm households. Fewer farm households raised fruits (71 percent) than raised vegetables (89 percent). Among farm households producing fruit for their own use, 63 percent canned fruits and fruit spreads, and 20 percent froze some fruit for out-of-season use. The average amount canned per farm household was 20 quarts of fruit and 10 quarts of fruit spreads; the amount frozen, 8 pounds.

The 1955 Survey of Household Food Consumption obtained much less detailed information on fresh fruit production for home use than on vegetables, except for melons. Families reported whether they raised fruits other than melons for fresh use but not how much. But they did provide a considerable amount of information on their canning and freezing of fruit, as briefed above and published in Survey Report No. 11. 15/

Value data for home-produced fresh fruits were approximated from the reported information on melons and by reference to data for vegetables. It was assumed that the proportion of fruits canned or frozen (excluding melons) was twice as large a share of all home-produced fruits as the proportion of vegetables so preserved. 16/ Though far from precise, this appears to provide a reasonable set of approximate values.

For melons, extensive data of home production are available from the survey. Melons were raised by almost half of the farm households of the South, a fourth of those in the North Central Region, and less than 15 percent in the Northeast and West. Watermelons were more popular among farm households than cantaloups in the South, but almost equally popular in other regions.

Melons were in season longer and were served more often each week during the producing season in the South. The heavy weight of melons adds up so fast that it is not surprising to find that among farm households home producing melons use averaged 576 pounds in the South.

15/ See also "Home Freezing and Canning by Households in the United States" by Mollie Orshansky and Mary Ann Moss, Family Economics Review, ARS 62-5, October 1957, pp. 12-15.

16/ Further description given on page 3 of Report No. 12.

